



Novirhabdovirus sp. Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)

General

1. RNA virus that is the causal agent of Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) infecting fish

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Eastern and western Europe, Japan, and the Pacific coast (Alaska to California) and the Atlantic coast of North America
2. Habitat:
 - Marine and freshwater environments
 - Optimum temperature and pH for reproduction are 14°C—15°C and 7.4—7.8, respectively
 - Inactive after 24 hours at 20°C in water; persists for five days at 4°C in water; fish mortality is greatest at 3°C—12°C and is very rare above 15°C

Invasion Pathways

1. Unknown; genetic evidence suggests origination from the Atlantic coast of North America, possibly via ballast water release or infected migratory fishes assisted by the St. Lawrence Seaway/ Canal system
2. Infected bait bucket release

Sources

1. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2656>



Photo: Mohammed Faisal
<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2656>